GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2679
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
New Variety of Tomato
Kaushik Shri Ramesh Chander

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed new varieties of tomato during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government for promoting the said varieties;

(c) the time by which the said new varieties of tomato are likely to be released to the farmers;

(d) the details of climate suitable for growing the said varieties of tomato; and

(e) whether the Government is conducting any training or educational programme for the farmers in this regard and if so, the steps taken by the Government for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Two hybrids of tomato, Arka Rakshak and Arka Samrat from ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru have been released.

? Arka Rakshak and Arka Samrat: These hybrids are unique and are resistant to three diseases viz. (a) Tomato leaf curl virus (ToLCV), (b) Bacterial wilt and (c) Early blight. Among all the hybrids in the country, these are the only hybrids which are resistant to early blight.

? Fruits of Arka Rakshak are oblong shaped while it is round in case of Arka Samrat. Fruits of these hybrids are firm with an extended shelf life of 15-20 days. The average yield potential is 80-85 t/ha under open field conditions in 140-145 days.
? ICAR-IIHR has produced and distributed 200 kg of F1 seeds covering an area of 10000 acres.
? ICAR-IIHR has conducted several on-farm demonstrations in different parts of the country involving Krishi Vigyan Kendras for popularization of these hybrids.

(c) Already, the F1 seeds are made available to the farmers by ICAR-IIHR. It has spread to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odhisa.

(d) These hybrids are suitable to be grown in the South Indian climatic conditions and appropriate season for their cultivation is Kharif and Rabi.

(e) Under the seed village concept, ICAR-IIHR has produced F1 seeds in farmers' fields under the supervision of breeders and these seeds are procured by the Institute and distributed to interested farmers. Further, the parental lines of these hybrids are licensed to NHRDF and private seed companies on nonexclusive basis. Steps are taken to license to NSC also.

****